

WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST IN CHELAN COUNTY,
WASHINGTON

JULY 8, 1997.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 822]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 822) to facilitate a land exchange involving private land within the exterior boundaries of Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, Washington, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST, WASHINGTON.

The boundary of the Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, Washington, is hereby adjusted to exclude section 1 of Township 23 North, Range 19 East, Willamette Meridian.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 822 is to facilitate a land exchange involving land within the exterior boundaries of Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, Washington.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 822 would help expedite an administrative land exchange of 640 acres of private property with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The private land is currently within the boundaries of the Wenatchee National Forest; however, it is located approximately one mile from the National Forest proper. In 1938 this land

was donated by Chelan County, Washington to the National Forest System and, years later, traded to a private party. Exchange of the land, however, did not remove the National Forest boundary. This resulted in a section of private land with a Forest Service boundary around it. The current land owner desires to exchange this land with the BLM which has adjacent land holdings. However, since the land has a National Forest boundary surrounding it, the BLM cannot acquire this land as title would be retained by the Forest Service under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. § 1716(c)). The Forest Service does not have the authority to remove the boundary, although the agency states that the 640 acres is no longer needed, and that the old boundary does not contribute to the management of the Wenatchee National Forest. The BLM desires to acquire the land parcel to consolidate its holdings which are adjacent to the private land. For this exchange to occur, the Forest Service boundary running between these parcels must be removed by act of Congress.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 822 was introduced on February 25, 1997, by Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. On May 20, 1997, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 822, where the Administration, represented by Mr. W. Hord Tipton, Assistant Director of Energy and Minerals, BLM, testified in opposition to the bill as introduced but indicated that it would support an amendment to remove the National Forest boundary to allow the exchange to take place administratively. On June 19, 1997, the Subcommittee met to mark up H.R. 822. An amendment in the nature of a substitute, which would remove the National Forest boundary line, was offered by Subcommittee Chairman James V. Hansen (R-UT), and adopted by voice vote. The bill was then ordered favorably reported, as amended, to the Full Committee. On June 25, 1997, the Full Resources Committee met to consider H.R. 822. No additional amendments were offered. The bill was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(l)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact H.R. 822.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 822. How-

ever, clause 7(d) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, H.R. 822 does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in or tax expenditures. According to the Congressional Budget Office, enacting H.R. 822 could affect revenues to the federal government (by reducing offsetting receipts from federal lands later proposed for exchange), but the effect on the federal budget would be “insignificant.”

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 822.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 822 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 3, 1997.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 822, a bill to facilitate a land exchange involving private land within the exterior boundaries of Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, Washington.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Victoria V. Heid.

Sincerely,

PAUL VAN DE WATER
(For June E. O'Neill, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 822—A bill to facilitate a land exchange involving private land within the exterior boundaries of Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, Washington

CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because H.R. 822 could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but any such effects would likely be insignificant. H.R. 822 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded

Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 822 would adjust the boundaries of the Wenatchee National Forest to exclude about 640 acres of private land so as to facilitate a land exchange between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the owner of the privately held land. Under current law, any lands that lie inside the boundaries of any unit of the National Forest System immediately become part of that unit when they are acquired by the Secretary of the Interior by exchange. Therefore, if BLM acquired private property within the area described by the bill, that land would automatically become part of the Wenatchee National Forest, which is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Enacting H.R. 822 would facilitate the land exchange by adjusting the boundaries of the Wenatchee National Forest to exclude the private land, thereby allowing BLM to manage the land under its own authority once the land is acquired by the federal government.

According to BLM, the agency has not yet determined which federal lands it would use in the exchange. If BLM exchanged federal land that is currently generating any income to the government, then implementing the exchange as a result of enacting H.R. 822 would affect direct spending by reducing offsetting receipts. Because BLM has not specified which federal land it will use in the exchange, however, CBO has no basis for predicting whether enacting H.R. 822 would affect direct spending. We expect that any such effects would be insignificant.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Victoria V. Heid. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

H.R. 822 contains no unfunded mandates.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, H.R. 822 would make no changes in existing law.